

Series: Christmas Originals

# CHRISTMAS MISSIONARIES

LUKE 2:8-20

Text:

Introduction:

Over the next few weeks we will consider some of the Christmas originals.

In essence the entire Christmas story is original.

It had never been done, and it hasn't been done since.

It was prophesized many years before the birth of Christ.

It was announced to a group of shepherds.

Those seeking were directed by a star.

The entire Christmas story was original and this evening we will consider the Christmas missionary.

(Read Text)

## **Luke 2:8-16**

*<sup>8</sup> And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, <sup>14</sup> Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. <sup>15</sup> And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. <sup>16</sup> And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.*

The Christmas narrative in our text introduces us to some individuals who we could easily call the “Original Christmas Missionaries.”

While the prophets may have told a story about One who would come,... it was the shepherds that would first proclaim the One... who had come.

As followers of Christ we should do nothing less this Christmas Season than to be Christmas Missionaries.

We should be telling others the story of the Good News of Christ who has come to all of us.

Let's consider these Christmas missionaries this evening.

Note:

## **1. THE RECEIVED A DECLARATION (VS. 10-16)**

### ***Luke 2:10-16***

*<sup>10</sup> And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, <sup>14</sup> Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. <sup>15</sup> And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. <sup>16</sup> And they came with haste, and*

*found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.*

The angels had delivered a message to the shepherds it was the declaration of GOOD NEWS.

This declaration caused the shepherds to be filled with aspiration, motivation, and anticipation.

***Luke 2:15-17***

<sup>15</sup> *And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, **Let us now go** even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which **the Lord hath made known unto us.*** <sup>16</sup> *And **they came with haste,** and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.* <sup>17</sup> *And **when they had seen it, they made known abroad** the saying which was told them concerning this child.*

Note:

There was no hesitation.

I think that we see why there was no delay in their response to go – they believed it was the Lord that had made it known unto them.

This declaration that they had received was:

- A Message of Good Tidings (Good News)
- A Message of Great Joy
- A Message that Would Bring Hope For All People

Let's consider how this declaration has affected us.

Have we received this declaration caused us to be filled with aspiration, motivation, and anticipation not only over the Saviour who has come but the Saviour who is coming again?

We ought to be Christmas Missionaries in the very finest sense taking the declaration we have heard and received and with great anticipation we should be hurrying to tell others the message.

Not only did those shepherds go and see but then they told. (vs. 17)

Note not only this Declaration but also:

## 2. THE SHEPHERDS BEGAN AN ACTIVITY OF DECORATION

### **Luke 2:17-20**

<sup>17</sup> *And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.*

<sup>18</sup> *And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.*

<sup>20</sup> *And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.*

- They spread the word
- They really began to spread Christmas cheer
- They began to DECORATE the lives of those they could share with

You may be asking how they decorated.

- Not with tinsel or garland
- Not with glass balls or glowing lights
- They spread the word of God's light which had come into the world

Remember:

Decoration is that which beautifies.

There is nothing that beautifies the world more than God's marvelous love made known to all people throughout your community and then throughout the earth.

Decorating with the message of God's having sent a savior into the world.

Note not only the "Declaration" and "Decoration" but lastly:

### **3. IT MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THE SHEPHERDS DEDICATION**

***Luke 2:20***

<sup>20</sup> *And **the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen**, as it was told unto them.*

Their dedication is seen in glorifying and praising God.

Their conversation was not about the wolves they had encountered on the pasture field.

Their conversation was not about the shining stars that were in the sky.

They now were filled with conversation of one star that shined with promise for all.

Note:

They were not only living; they were a living testimony of a changed life.

A life now dedicated to the one thing that really made a difference.

Close:

Surely everyone here has heard the declaration that Christ was born for us.

Surely everyone here has heard the declaration the Christ Died for us.

Surely everyone here has heard the declaration the Christ is risen and is coming again.

How has this declaration affected our aspiration, motivation, and anticipation?

Do those around us see how Christ has changed our lives?

Are we praising and glorifying God as did these first Christmas missionaries the Shepherds?